

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 14, 15 and 19 as set forth in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A modular network connector assembly comprising:
 - a first connector housing including a receptacle for releasably housing a first connector half having a first telescoping body portion;
 - a second connector housing having a second telescoping body portion for engaging with the first telescoping body portion, wherein the second connector housing includes a receptacle is configured to releasably house a second connector half for axially mating with the first connector half;
 - an annular collar encircling the telescoping body portions and rotatably held on the second connector housing,
 - a spring inside the collar, the ends of the spring being confined between the second connector housing and the collar so as to yieldingly resist rotation of the collar relatively to the second connector housing; and
 - axially opposed tabs, including a collar tab disposed on the collar and a body tab on the first connector housing, the axially opposed tabs having with opposed flaring cam surfaces cooperatively producing rotation of the collar relative to the first connector housing as the first and second connector housing are telescoped to a mated contact position, the cam surfaces guiding the collar tab around the body tab;
- wherein the spring yields as the collar is rotated by the cam tabs during contact mating, and the spring then rotates the collar tab to a latching position axially behind the body tab locking the first and second connector housings in mated contact position.
2. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, further comprising a first connector half housed in the first connector housing and a second connector half housed in the second connector housing.
3. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 2, wherein the first connector half comprises a RJ-45 jack and the second connector half comprises a RJ-45 plug.
4. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 3, wherein the plug mates with the jack when the first and second connector housings are in the mated contact position.

5. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 3, wherein the second connector housing includes a lever disabling groove for disabling a latching lever on the plug when the plug is inserted in the second connector housing.

6. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the first connector housing includes a retaining system for releasably retaining the first connector half therein.

7. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 6, wherein the retaining system comprises a first groove for engaging a first protrusion on the first connector half.

8. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 7, wherein the retaining system further includes a second groove for engaging a second protrusion on the first connector half.

9. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector housing includes a retaining system for releasably retaining the second connector half therein.

10. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 9, wherein the retaining system includes a ridge formed in a plug-receiving receptacle of the second connector housing for engaging a groove on the second connector half.

11. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector housing includes a threaded portion for engaging a strain relief for a cable.

12. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 11, further comprising a strain relief attached to the threaded portion of the second connector housing.

13. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector housing includes a disabling groove for disabling a latching lever arm on the second connector half.

14. (Currently Amended) A modular network connector assembly, comprising:

a plug receptacle sized and configured to receive a wired end of plug; and
a ridge formed on an inner surface of the receptacle for engaging with a groove in the
plug to removably retain the plug in the receptacle.

15. (Currently Amended) A modular network connector assembly, comprising:

- a jack housing;
- a first cavity formed in the housing for receiving and retaining a jack formed in a back end of the housing;
- a second cavity formed in the housing for receiving a telescoping portion of a plug housing formed in a front end of the housing; and
- a jack retaining system for releasably retaining a jack in the first cavity.

16. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 15, wherein a plug retained in the plug housing mates with a jack mounted in the first cavity when the telescoping portion of the plug housing is inserted in the second cavity.

17. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 15, wherein the jack retaining system comprises a first groove formed in the first cavity for engaging a first protrusion on a jack.

18. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 17, wherein the jack retaining system further comprises a second groove formed in the first cavity opposite the first groove for engaging a second protrusion on a jack.

19. (Currently Amended) A modular network connector assembly, comprising:

- a plug housing;
- a plug receptacle formed in a first end of the plug housing for receiving and releasably retaining a wired end of the plug such that a mating end of the plug protrudes from the first end of the plug housing when retained by the receptacle; and
- a threaded portion on the second end of the plug housing for mating with a strain relief.

20. (Original) The modular network connector assembly of claim 19, further comprising:
a threaded strain relief mated with the threaded portion of the plug housing.